

VII.—*Synopsis of the Species of Choeradodis, a remarkable Genus of Mantodea common to India and Tropical America.*—By J. WOOD-MASON, *Officiating Superintendent Indian Museum, and Professor of Comparative Anatomy, Medical College, Calcutta.*

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The paper of which the following is an abstract, will be published in full as soon as the illustrations which have been drawn on the wood under my supervision and sent to London to be cut are returned to this country.

The remarkable distribution of this genus of *Mantodea* is exactly paralleled by that of another genus of *Orthoptera*, namely *Mastax*, species of which from the southern slopes of the Peruvian Andes have recently been described by Dr. S. H. Scudder.

The nearest allies of *Choeradodis* are the Australian *Orthoderas*, which its young 'larvæ' resemble in the form of the pronotum.

Genus CHOERADODIS, Serville.

A. *Fore femora without a black blotch on the inner side.*

1. CHOERADODIS STRUMARIA.

Madame Mérian, *Ins. de Surinam*, 1726, tab. 27, ♀ et nymph.

Roesel von Rosenhof, *Der monatlich-herausgegebenen Insecten Belustigung*, 2ter Theil, 1749, Locust. tab. iii, fig. 1 et 2, ♀ et nymph (copied from Mérian).

*Mantis strumaria*, Linn., *Syst. nat. Ins. t. i, pt. ii*, 1767, p. 691, no. 13, ♀.

—————, Fabr., *Ent. Syst. ii*, 1793, p. 18, no. 21.

♀ ——— *cancellata*, Fabr., *l. c.*, 23.

—————, Stoll, *Spectres et Mantes*, pl. xi, fig. 42, ♀.

—————, Lichtenstein, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. vol. 6*, p. 25.

*Choeradodis cancellata*, Serville, *Hist. nat. des Orthopt.* 1839, p. 206, ♀.

*Craurusa cancellata*, Burmeister, *Handb. d. Entom.* 1839, Band ii, p. 542, (Syn. Serv. et Stoll. fig. 75, exclus.)

*Choeradodis cancellata*, Saussure, *Mant. Americ.* p. 19, ♂, ♀.

HAB. Cayenne (♀, *Serville*); Surinam (♀, *Mérian, Stoll*; ♂ ♀, *Saussure*).

B. *Fore femora with a black blotch on the inner side.*

(a.) *The blotch on the lower half of the joint* (American).

In the females of the following two species, the posterior angles of the pronotal expansions are broadly rounded and are not produced backwards beyond the level of the hinder end of the primitive pronotum.

2. CHOERADODIS RHOMBICOLLIS.

*Mantis rhombicollis*, Latr. in *Voy. de Humboldt, Zool.*, *Ins.* p. 103, pl. 39, figs. 2, 3, ♂.

*Choeradodis peruviana*, Serville, Hist. nat. des Orthopt. 1839, p. 207, ♂.

————— *strumaria*, Stål, Syst. Mant., 1877, p. 15, ♂ ♀.

The blotch commences, in both sexes, near the base of the femur, extends through the unguis groove nearly to the middle of the joint, and is there succeeded by a marginal row of black points in contact with the bases of alternate spines.

HAB. ♂ ♀, Guayaquil, in the collection of the British Museum; nymph, Santa Fé de Bogota, in the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta; New Granada (♂ ♀, Stål).

### 3. CHOERADODIS SERVILLEI, n. sp.

♀. Closely allied to the preceding, from which it differs in having the marginal field of the tegmina proportionately narrower, and in the smaller size, as well as in the different shape, of the femoral blotch, which is small and oval, commences just beyond the unguis groove, and is followed by a marginal row of small black points.

HAB. 2 ♀, Cache, Costa Rica, in the collection of Messrs. Godman and Salvin; nymph, Chiriqui, in the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

In the females of the next two species, and in all probability in those of *Ch. rhomboidea* also, the posterior angles of the pronotal lamellæ are rounded-angulate and produced backwards so that the hinder end of the primitive pronotum projects in the bottom of an angular emargination.

### 4. CHOERADODIS LATICOLLIS.

*Choeradodis laticollis*, Serville, Revue p. 24; Hist. nat. des Orthopt. 1839, p. 208, pl. iv, fig. 2, ♀.

————— Saussure, Mantes Americ. p. 20, ♀.

————— *strumaria*, Id., ibid. p. 18, ♂.

————— *laticollis*, Stål, Syst. Mant. 1877, 17, ♀.

The blotch is situated, in both sexes, just beyond the unguis groove, is oblong-rhomboidal in shape, and is followed by two black points on the bases of alternate spines; there is a fuscous speck at the end of the stigmal spot of the tegmina; and the antero-lateral margins of the pronotal lamellæ are arcuate or convex, especially in the female.

HAB. 5 ♂, 5 ♀, Ecuador (*Buckley*), in the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta; Peru (♀, Stål); Cayenne (♀, *Serville et Stål*); Surinam (♂, *Saussure*).

### 5. CHOERADODIS STALII, n. sp.

Differs from the preceding in the shape of the blotch (which is pointed at both ends and commences in the unguis groove, and on either side of which the femur is pale luteous-yellow instead of being clouded with

fuscous); in being without a fuscous speck at the distal end of the stigma; in its shorter and differently shaped facial shield; and in having the antero-lateral margins and the lateral angles of the pronotal expansions sinuous-concave and more broadly rounded off respectively.

HAB. 1 ♂, 4 ♀, Ecuador (*Buckley*), in the collection of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

#### 6. CHOERADODIS RHOMBOIDEA.

*Mantis rhomboidea*, Stoll, Spectres et Mantes, pl. xi, fig. 45, ♂.

The male insect from Pará, in the British Museum, agrees neither with Saussure's description (*loc. supra cit.* p. 18), nor with any of the specimens in the Indian Museum; it more nearly approaches Stoll's figure, agreeing therewith in the points in which it differs from them.

The blotch commences in the unguial groove, thence extending as far along the femur as in the preceding four species, but it is not followed by a marginal row of black points. The pronotal lamellæ have no posterior angles.

HAB. ♂, Pará, in the collection of the British Museum. A nymph, from Ega, in the same collection, probably also belongs to this species.

This species is nearest allied to *Ch. laticollis*.

(β) *The blotch on the upper half of the joint* (Indian.)

#### 7. CHOERADODIS SQUILLA.

? *Mantis cancellata*, Fabr. Ent. Syst. II, 1793, p. 18.

*Choeradodis squilla*, Saussure, Mél. Orthopt. t. i, 3me fasc. p. 161, pl. iv, figs. 3, 3a, ♂ et nymph.

Lucas, Ann. Entom. Soc. Fr. 5 sér. t. ii, 1872, p. 32, ♀.

HAB. India generally, from Ceylon (♂ et nymph, *Saussure*; larva, in I. M. Calc.); Madras (♀, *Lucas*); Central India (in coll. Hop. Oxon.); to the banks of the Killing River, in the N. Khasi Hills, on the N. E. Frontier (nymph, *A. W. Chennell*).

Obs. A specimen of this species in the British Museum is erroneously marked "Brazil."

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